

## Florida House of Representatives

Representative Alan B. Williams Deputy Minority Whip District 8

<u>Council:</u> General Government Policy Committees: Energy & Utilities Policy Government Operations Appropriations, Democratic Ranking Member State Universities & Private Colleges Policy Committee: Joint Select Committee on Collective Bargaining

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 24, 2010 **CONTACT: Briana Toole** (850) 488 – 1798

Representative Alan Williams issued the following statement today after the U.S. Department of Education announced Florida is among "Race to the Top" Competition winners:

"Today's decision by the federal Department of Education is excellent news for schools in Gadsden and Leon counties. The second round application submitted by the state was a strong blueprint for reform and had significant buy in from unions, education leaders, school districts and local communities. The Race to the Top funding will allow us to implement plans to address our struggling schools. Florida will have the opportunity to design meaningful education reform.

I congratulate all those who participated in the application process. The governor, state board of education, teacher unions, education leaders, community partners and local districts and school boards who signed on did a tremendous amount of work to complete this process, moving Florida forward in the competition for these federal dollars. The Race to the Top funding will assist the state in successfully pushing for education reforms to close the achievement gap and improve the standard of education in Florida. This funding will be a tremendous help to schools in Gadsden and Leon counties as our students continue to strive for success."

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